9/7/71

Dear Paul,

As with all of this I'll be interesting your reading of 9/2, subject of another enclosure. Here I'll start the easier bits.

Somebody may be using the FBI for fun or concert. Over the weekend there was reporting of sworn statements by JH and Kleindienst that they had nothing to do with this. Then there was a rather sophisticated appearance by DC Police Chief Wilson on this, before the National Press Club (superficial but persuasive indications of careful preparation for the light and humorous, unless he is a born Buchwald/Thurber).

Schedad:I'll welcome any clips you can provide on all aspects. Not for my own writing, which just can't get into this, but because most of all (there are other reasons) I am hoping to get a black writer or writers to address this and other similar things and am keeping files for this purpose.

Also the significance of the Chron 8/26, which shows the impossibility of the hiding in the wig.

What this story didn't have space for is the length of the grip and whether or not the clip could have been a problem, whether hair in it could have impeded operation (probably slight) and why grips had to be removed. I know of no reason to believe the gun was not smuggled in until then. If you see any, I'd appreciate. I would presume it is one of any that are, undoubtedly, in the jail at all times and in the hands of prisoners. One of the traditional sources of contraband is the corrupt guards. Of course, smuggling is possible. All sorts of illegalities are and are normal today.

If I find difficulty believing any version, I would like to know what I can of all.

There is too much about this that doesn't make sense and, as you note, too much that makes of the success of the hunt.

One of the more obvious purposes that could have been served by the removal of the grips would depend upon the kind that had been on the pistol. That need not be the kind it comes with, for these are easily replaced. But if it comes with smooth ones, the obvious things that could have been removed with them is prints. There have to have been at least partial prints on the trigger and adjacent metal, whether or not sufficient for perfect identification. Part of the palm has to have been on the butt. Depending on individual practice, some of the thumb should have been on one side. I have seen no reference to any of this, which is quite interesting.

Also, note that all of this coincides with other things, like the HRA arrests in Ala. Gotta stop. Best and thanks, HW